

Dear FCC Commisioners:

I am a 50 year old female, K5ZN. Not a radio professional. I am in Santa Fe, New Mexico, I am active in community issues and have a good feel for community needs. I have seen over the decades radio stations become nothing more than assets for an investment company. In this age of Sirius and iPods, I believe AM broadcast radio can once again play an important role in local identity.

Santa Fe has virtually no radio voice for locals. There is a public FM station which does a poor job of being anything like good radio. Geriatric, idiosyncratic and boring. Some competition may be called for. If you turn on the radio all you hear is repetitive music playlists on FM and loud attack-dog political talk on AM.

There is not one local talk-radio show in this town, all programming is canned and piped in. The closest we have to a local station is a very powerful far-right-wing Albuquerque station who is not interested in liberal Santa Fe. While I realize those conservatives need a public voice, I do not understand why political liberals do not have the same access to airwaves.

1) We have a very active local agriculture community here, a vibrant Farmer's Market and five (5) distinct natural food stores. This economic subculture has no collective voice. In fact, Santa Fe is now building "The Railyard", to build a dedicated farmer's market in the historic Santa Fe railyard, which will be accessible to all farmers and artists. I wish there were such a resource in radio.

2) Local politics are a constant public topic here, with Santa Fe being the testbed for many progressive issues. Yet we do not have one local show with political content. And that means no call-in shows.

3) Educational needs are not met by these corporate-owned stations. Students, youth and teachers here are talented and dedicated. It's important that they think of radio as a channel for public dialog, in addition to learning valuable broadcasting skills.

4) The arts here in Santa Fe are a big attraction. Music, amateur filmmaking and Indian (native) culture are all important parts of Santa Fe's economy. Unfortunately these interests have no radio exposure at all.

5) Our large retirement community has no representation. We had a call-in show several years ago (1990s) with a panel of local MDs, who would answer questions from callers. That was an example of good radio. In any case, there must be some old-timers who have good stories to tell.

6) No local news. When I was a child in the 1960s, I remember the thrill of the radio as the great informer. There is no such thing in Santa Fe. No coverage of City Hall, travel conditions or the water shortage. And no emergency alerts. All our stations are automated.

7) Santa Fe has a large homosexual population (including couples with children) which is not addressed by broadcast media. This subculture exists largely as an insular group despite having more disposable income than other listeners. This is a group that taxpaying Americans who are systematically ignored by corporate media. We do, however, hear all about how homosexuals are perverted and sinful from the plethora of right-wing radio blanketing the region.

Broadcast radio has become investment real estate. As putting content on the air has gotten more efficient and mechanized, the investment value has gone up and up and up. One might conclude that automation is responsible for the lack of community responsiveness.

I would like to see FCC rules that make radio stations more expensive to operate. This would reduce the value of a station to the level where a local business or engineer could own a station. I remember in the 1960s or 70s it was that way. Owner-operator-programmer would be the job description. Talent and pride could be heard in radio once again, not the constant stream of trash and meanness that radio has become.

Santa Fe has a variety of well-developed printed media serving our diverse community. It is sad that radio does not follow the same pattern. What we have is a monopoly of a few corporations. Regular people have no access to the microphone. I even asked our local station one time about having a local

talk show. They offered me radio time... for \$100 per hour. There is no way a small town like Santa Fe

can sponsor a talk show at those prices, and it should not even happen. The electromagnetic spectrum

is owned by the citizens, but somehow a large corporation based on Florida or Nevada can decide what we hear on the radio. And ironically, they are not even a broadcast corporation, they are "investment" corporations, only interested in the dollar value of their holdings.

The convenience of radio is unarguable, especially while driving. Vehicles will continue to be equipped

with radios far into the future. Unfortunately the vast majority of AM stations are all-Spanish, all-religious, all right-wing, or all-sports. As a result of this exclusive demographic targeting, the average person does not even check the AM band for something interesting. Every time I drive through Colorado Springs I wonder why all I can hear is sermons. I am not sure how I feel about these narrow-

target stations. Church-owned stations are supported by untaxable donations to preach religion on publicly-owned airwaves. How does that serve the interest of the public? And I would even argue that it violates separation of church and state. But that is another topic.

I propose that the station should be owned by one entity while the FCC license should be issued to a non-affiliated local entity. This clash of interests should produce some varied and contrasting programming, with the interests of both corporate ownership AND the community served.

So, to sum it up, the current "capital asset" ownership of broadcast stations that we have is responsible for the lack of local programming. Radio stations are "income property" for an absentee owner in some other state where corporate regulations are favorable. Mandatory local programming may be a good start, but the real disease in radio is that the broadcast license is a limited resource, and therefore valuable to own. The current "land rush" to collect FCC licenses has led to values out of

the range for ordinary locals. I hope the Commissioners consider breaking this resource monopoly, so

we see a return to AM broadcast as a local meeting place like I remember it from the 1960s.

Thank you for your concern in this problem.